

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 181575
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 AGRE-00 SSM-03
IO-13 CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 /076 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:JKBISHOP:PG
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
AID/NESA:LSTAMBERG (PHONE)
-----055031 030324Z /72
P 022335Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 181575

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TS, OVIP (BELKHODJA, HASSAN)

SUBJECT: MINISTER BELKHODJA'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ATHERTON

REF: STATE 176249

1. DURING CALL ON ATHERTON MINISTER EXPRESSED GREAT
SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT VISIT, STATING HE HAD BEEN WELL
RECEIVED EVERYWHERE. SAID HE HOPES TO SEE MORE U.S.
PRIVATE PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF TUNISIA'S AGRI-
CULTURAL SECTOR.

2. AFTER PRAISING TUNISIA'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND
WELCOMING MINISTER'S DESIRE FOR LARGER ROLE FOR U.S.
FIRMS, ATHERTON TURNED DISCUSSION TO CURRENT MID-EAST
PEACEMAKING EFFORT. OUTLINING SECRETARY'S TRAVEL PLANS,
ATHERTON EXPLAINED THAT WHILE U.S. REALIZES THERE ARE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 181575

MANY OBSTACLES TO SUCCESS THERE IS SOME PROSPECT THAT A
VIABLE PEACE SETTLEMENT WILL BE ACHIEVED. HE NOTED
BOURGUIBA'S EARLY ADVOCACY OF A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH,
COMMENTING THAT OTHERS NOW HAVE FOLLOWED HIS GOOD EXAMPLE.

3. BELKHODJA RESPONDED EFFUSIVELY, CHARACTERIZING A POS-
SIBLE PEACE SETTLEMENT AS,QUOTE: THE HISTORIC ACT OF THE

CENTURY. UNQUOTE AND PROMISING TO TELL BOURGUIBA WHAT ATHERTON HAD SAID. HE ASKED SEVERAL TIMES IF SECRETARY COULD STOP BRIEFLY IN TUNISIA TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH BOURGUIBA. ATHERTON REPLIED THAT CROWDED SCHEDULE AND NEED TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN TIME TO PREPARE FOR PRC TRIP REGRETFULLY WOULD MAKE EVEN HALF HOUR VISIT FINALLY PROPOSED BY BELKHODJA IMPOSSIBLE.

4. MINISTER RAISED CLASHES BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA, REMARKING THAT TUNISIA HAD RESPONDED MORE CALMLY TO LIBYAN PROVOCATION, PARTIALLY BECAUSE IT HAD LITTLE CHOICE. ATHERTON DESCRIBED THE CONFLICT AS SERIOUS WITH RIVALRY BETWEEN THE PARTIES PERSISTING. HE SAID USG HOPES TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT AND TO CONSERVE ITS ENERGIES FOR OTHER PROBLEMS. BELKHODJA COMMENTED THAT EACH REGION OF WORLD SEEMS TO HAVE ITS QUOTE: CUBA.UNQUOTE EMPLOYING CLAN-DESTINE MEANS RATHER THAN OVERT TO ACCOMPLISH ITS ENDS.

5. BELKHODJA MET WITH AID ADMINISTRATOR GILLIGAN ON JULY 28, AFTER EARLIER APPOINTMENT HAD TO BE CANCELLED BY GILLIGAN DUE TO LAST MINUTE MEETING ON THE HILL. ALTHOUGH BELKHODJA'S FEATHERS RUFFLED BY THIS CANCELLATION (FYI: BELKHODJA CANCELLED PRIOR MEETING AT LAST MINUTE WITH GILLIGAN PREVIOUS WEEK). JULY 28 MEETING IS BELIEVED TO HAVE ASSUAGED IRRITATION (SEPTTEL BY AID FOLLOWS).

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 181575

6. DEPARTMENT IS POUCHING BELKHODJA'S SCHEDULE AND OTHER PERTINENT INFO. WILL POUCH FOLLOW-UP INFO FROM CU AS RECEIVED.

CHRISTOPHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE181575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKBISHOP:PG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770277-0644
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708104/aaaadkty.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 86a4144f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 176249
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1413195
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTER BELKHODJA'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON
TAGS: OVIP, TS, (BELKHODJA, HASSAN)
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/86a4144f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009